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RICK LARSEN
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Congress of the United States
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RANKING MEMBER
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TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

June 12, 2023

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I request your full and fair consideration of an application submitted by Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle (Low-No) grant program for purchase of electric buses.

WTA seeks funds to purchase eleven electric buses to replace three diesel buses and eight electric-diesel hybrid buses. These zero-emission vehicles would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and could save fuel and maintenance costs over the life of the vehicles.

Electric buses would also help WTA reduce congestion in communities overburdened by their proximity to high-traffic transit routes. In Whatcom County, 60 percent of people below the poverty threshold reside within a quarter mile of a WTA bus stop, and a significant majority of WTA's weekday boardings occur in low-income areas.

WTA's project aligns with the administration's goal of ensuring 40 percent of federal program funds benefit projects designed to benefit disadvantaged communities. If funded, this project would enhance WTA's efforts to provide a reliable and sustainable public transportation system and keep pace with current and increasing ridership demand throughout Whatcom County.

For these reasons, I request your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of WTA's application.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, Second District